PATENT Attorney Docket No: 259/175

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) An automotive pyrotechnic initiator, comprising:

a) an initiator subassembly including a can loaded with a pyrotechnic charge, and a header assembly having an igniter wire and a connector end; and,

b) a molded, integral, unitary electrically-nonconductive overmolded body connected to and surrounding substantially all of said initiator subassembly except for an exposed portion of said connector end, wherein said body provides structural support and installation orientation features.

2. (original) The initiator of claim 1, wherein said connector end of said header assembly comprises two electrode pins.

3. (original) The initiator of claim 2, wherein said electrode pins project outwardly from said body.

4. (previously presented) The initiator of claim 3, wherein one of said electrode pins is a ground pin and the other is an isolated electrode pin.

5. (previously presented) The initiator of claim 4, wherein said body and said electrode pins together form a serviceable or non-serviceable integral automotive airbag initiator connector.

6. (canceled)

7. (original) The initiator of claim 1, wherein said body is made of nylon.

8. (previously presented) A method for making an automotive pyrotechnic initiator having an overmolded body, comprising the steps of:

a) providing an initiator subassembly including a can loaded with a pyrotechnic charge, and a header

assembly having an igniter wire and a connector end; and,

b) molding an integral, unitary, electrically-nonconductive, overmolded body around said subassembly, such that said body is connected to and surrounds substantially all of said initiator subassembly except for an exposed portion of said connector end, wherein said body provides structural support and installation orientation features.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein said step of providing includes providing an initiator subassembly wherein said connector end of said header assembly comprises two electrode pins.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein said step of providing includes providing an initiator subassembly that includes a ground pin and an isolated electrode pin.

11. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein said step of molding includes molding said body such that an exposed portion of each of said electrode pins projects outwardly from said body.

12. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein said step of molding includes injecting molten material into a mold in which said initiator subassembly is placed.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said step of molding includes injecting molten material into said mold under pressure.

14. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein said step of providing includes providing an initiator subassembly having an upper region.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein said step of molding includes injecting said molten material at said upper region of said initiator subassembly, and allowing said molten material to flow downwardly along said subassembly.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said step of molding includes injecting molten material into said mold under pressure.

17-18. (canceled)

19. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein said step of molding includes injecting molten nylon.

20. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein said step of providing includes providing an initiator subassembly wherein said can is tightly and substantially completely loaded with said pyrotechnic charge.

21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) An automotive pyrotechnic initiator, comprising:

a) an initiator subassembly including a can loaded with a pyrotechnic charge, and a glass-to-metal sealed header assembly having an igniter wire and a connector end; and,
b) a molded, integral, unitary electrically-nonconductive overmolded body connected to and surrounding substantially all of said initiator subassembly except for an exposed portion of said connector end; wherein said body provides structural support and installation orientation features.

23. (canceled)

24. (currently amended) The initiator of claim 22, wherein said body is made of nylon ~~initiator subassembly includes a glass-to-metal sealed header assembly~~.

25. (currently amended) The initiator of claim 24, wherein said can is tightly and substantially completely loaded with said pyrotechnic charge ~~molded, integral, unitary electrically-nonconductive overmolded body provides structural support and installation orientation features~~.